



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHOENIX WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, and the Office of the Inspector General/Social Security Administration, announced today that on March 19, 2002, **SANDRA B. DILLIPLANE**, age 48, entered a plea of guilty to a one-count Criminal Indictment for defrauding Social Security programs of \$27,463. The Criminal Indictment, resulting from an investigation conducted by Special Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General, charged Theft of Government Property.

DILLIPLANE, whose mother-in-law died in May 1996, failed to report the death and continued to receive and convert to her own personal use Social Security Widow's benefits checks deposited into her deceased mother-in-law's bank account until April 2001. Sentencing before Senior United States District Court Judge Mary H. Murguia is scheduled for June 3, 2002. **DILLIPLANE** faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for not more than ten years or a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

The criminal prosecution is the result of a joint effort between the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona and the Social Security Administration/Office of the Inspector General to identify and prosecute fraud against Social Security benefit programs. The prosecution is being handled by John K. Webb, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR 01-851-PHX-MHM

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